

Now turning to the subject Office Action, and specifically the § 112 rejection of claim 24, the claim was amended in the prior Amendment and Response to conform with the Examiner's request. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is therefore respectfully requested.

Next, with respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102, as Applicants noted in the aforementioned interview, all of the independent claims are directed to accessing a group in a clustered computer system using a cluster-private group name associated with the group. Porter et al., the reference cited by the Examiner is completely silent with respect to the concept of clustering, much less the concept of accessing a group in a cluster using a cluster-private group name.

Porter et al. is directed to a system used in a telecommunications network to assist in routing data communications through the network. However, there is nothing in the reference that discloses or suggests any application in a clustered computer system. As described at page 1, lines 9-14 of the application, "clustering" refers to a computer system organization where multiple computers or nodes are networked together to cooperatively perform computer tasks in such a manner that all of the nodes present a single system image. Furthermore, the Microsoft Computer Dictionary, which was cited by the Examiner at page 9 of the subject Office Action, fully supports this definition, particularly in regard to the concept of a "single system image." Given that Porter et al. fails to disclose anything analogous to a cluster or a "single system image", Applicants submit that Porter et al. cannot be relied upon to anticipate any of the independent claims, and the rejections thereof should be withdrawn.

In addition, as noted above, all of the independent claims recite the concept of accessing a cluster group using a "cluster-private" group name. As noted in the interview, by making a group name private to a cluster, access to a group by non-participating entities can be restricted, often without requiring special network configurations (e.g., dedicated LAN's between cluster nodes).

Porter et al. does not disclose or suggest the concept of a cluster-private group name. Beyond the fact that Porter et al. does not suggest the use of names for cluster

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groups given its lack of teaching related to clustering or cluster groups, Porter et al. also fails to disclose private identifiers names for the purpose of restricting access to an entity. Porter et al. does appear to disclose the concept of using names or mappings of names to addresses; however, this concept is implemented via a "universal" directory function. The universal nature of this function, however, is antithetical to a "private"-type entity as is recited in the independent claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Porter et al. cannot be read to disclose a "cluster-private group name" that is accessible only by a node that participates in a cluster. The independent claims are therefore novel over Porter et al. for this additional reason.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims are non-obvious over Porter et al., as there is no suggestion in the reference, or elsewhere in the prior art of record, of the desirability of utilizing of a cluster-private group name to process access requests in a clustered computer system. Porter et al., which is not even directed to clustering, cannot be relied upon to provide any evidence of a motivation in the art, and the Examiner has pointed to no other specific art to support such a position. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 15, 25 and 26 are also non-obvious over Porter et al. Reconsideration and allowance of these claims, as well as of claims 2-14, 16-24 and 27 which depend therefrom, are therefore respectfully requested.

As a final matter, with respect to a number of the dependent claims, Applicants noted in the interview that the Examiner has failed to properly apply Porter et al. to the specific limitations of these claims, beyond the citation of passages without any explanation of how these passages apply to the claims at issue. Moreover, Applicants were unable to find relevant teachings in the cited passages directed to a number of the concepts recited in these claims. For example, with respect to claims 3 and 17, which recite forwarding an access request to a clustering infrastructure, Applicants were unable to find any disclosure in Porter et al. directed to a "clustering infrastructure", or the forwarding of access requests to any analogous entity.

Likewise, with respect to claims 4-5 and 18, which recite processing an access request with a proxy job, Applicants were unable to find any disclosure in Porter et al. directed to a "proxy job", or the processing of access requests using any analogous entities.

With respect to claims 6 and 19, which recite a cluster-private data structure, and claims 8-9 and 21, which recite a cluster-private data structure that is accessible only from a particular node or by a particular job resident on the node, Applicants were unable to find any disclosure in Porter et al. directed to any private data structure, much less a data structure that is "cluster-private."

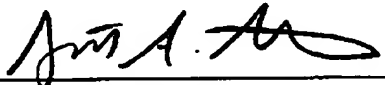
In addition, with respect to claims 14 and 24, which recite locally resolving a mapping between a cluster-private group name and a plurality of addresses, Applicants were unable to find any disclosure in Porter et al. directed to local resolution of a private mapping and multiple addresses.

In summary, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the foregoing, or which might otherwise further this case onto allowance, the Examiner may contact the undersigned at (513) 241-2324. Moreover, if any other charges or credits are necessary to complete this communication, please apply them to Deposit Account 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

21 APR 2005

Date


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